

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3487

AN ACT

To amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to health professions programs regarding the field of nursing.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Nurse Reinvestment
3 Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS REGARDING**
5 **NURSING PROFESSION.**

6 Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act (42
7 U.S.C. 296 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the
8 following:

9 **“PART H—PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

10 **“SEC. 851. PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

11 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall develop and
12 issue public service announcements that advertise and pro-
13 mote the nursing profession, highlight the advantages and
14 rewards of nursing, and encourage individuals to enter the
15 nursing profession.

16 “(b) METHOD.—The public service announcements
17 described in subsection (a) shall be broadcast through ap-
18 propriate media outlets, including television or radio, in
19 a manner intended to reach as wide and diverse an audi-
20 ence as possible.

21 **“SEC. 852. STATE AND LOCAL PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCE-**
22 **MENTS.**

23 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award
24 grants to eligible entities to support State and local adver-
25 tising campaigns via appropriate media outlets to promote
26 the nursing profession, highlight the advantages and re-

1 wards of nursing, and encourage individuals from dis-
2 advantaged backgrounds to enter the nursing profession.

3 “(b) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that receives
4 a grant under subsection (a) shall use funds received
5 through such grant to acquire local television and radio
6 time, place advertisements in local newspapers, and post
7 information on billboards or on the Internet, in order to—

8 “(1) advertise and promote the nursing profes-
9 sion;

10 “(2) promote nursing education programs;

11 “(3) inform the public of public assistance re-
12 garding such education programs;

13 “(4) highlight individuals in the community
14 that are presently practicing nursing in order to re-
15 cruit new nurses; and

16 “(5) provide any other information to recruit
17 individuals for the nursing profession.

18 “(c) METHOD.—The campaigns described in sub-
19 section (a) shall be broadcast on television or radio, or
20 placed in newspapers as advertisements, or posted on bill-
21 boards or the Internet, in a manner intended to reach as
22 wide and diverse an audience as possible.”.

1 **SEC. 3. LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM; SCHOLARSHIPS.**

2 (a) LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM; ADDITIONAL AS-
3 SIGNMENT AUTHORITIES.—Section 846(a) of the Public
4 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 297n(a)) is amended—

5 (1) in paragraph (3)—

6 (A) by striking “in a public hospital,” and
7 inserting “in a public or private hospital (in-
8 cluding a critical access hospital or a rural hos-
9 pital),”; and

10 (B) by inserting after “rural health clinic,”
11 the following: “in a State or local department
12 of public health, in a skilled nursing facility, in
13 a home health agency, in a hospice program
14 (including home settings), in an ambulatory
15 surgical center,”; and

16 (2) by adding at the end the following: “In the
17 case of a private entity that is not a nonprofit entity
18 and is pursuant to paragraph (3) eligible for an as-
19 signment of a nurse, the Secretary may not assign
20 a nurse to such an entity after the expiration of the
21 three-year period beginning on the date of the enact-
22 ment of the Nurse Reinvestment Act.”.

23 (b) ESTABLISHMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.—
24 Section 846 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.
25 297n) is amended—

1 (1) in the heading for the section, by striking
2 “PROGRAM” and inserting “AND SCHOLARSHIP PRO-
3 GRAMS”;

4 (2) by redesignating subsections (d), (f), (g),
5 and (h) as subsections (f), (h), (i), and (g), respec-
6 tively;

7 (3) by transferring subsections (f) and (g) (as
8 so redesignated) from their current placements, by
9 inserting subsection (f) after subsection (e), and by
10 inserting subsection (g) after subsection (f) (as so
11 inserted); and

12 (4) by inserting after subsection (c) the fol-
13 lowing subsection:

14 “(d) SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may carry
16 out a program of entering into contracts with eligi-
17 ble individuals under which such individuals agree to
18 serve as nurses in designated health facilities in con-
19 sideration of the Federal Government agreeing to
20 provide to the individuals scholarships for attend-
21 ance at schools of nursing.

22 “(2) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS; DESIGNATED
23 HEALTH FACILITIES.—For purposes of this sub-
24 section:

1 “(A) The term ‘eligible individual’ means
2 an individual who is enrolled or accepted for en-
3 rollment as a full-time student in a school of
4 nursing.

5 “(B) The term ‘designated health facility’
6 means any entity that is eligible under sub-
7 section (a) for an assignment of a nurse, sub-
8 ject to the provisions of such subsection relating
9 to private entities that are not nonprofit enti-
10 ties.

11 “(3) APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN PROVI-
12 SIONS.—With respect to the National Health Service
13 Corps Scholarship Repayment Program established
14 in subpart III of part D of title III, the provisions
15 of such subpart shall, except as inconsistent with
16 this section, apply to the program established in
17 paragraph (1) in the same manner and to the same
18 extent as such provisions apply to the National
19 Health Service Corps Scholarship Program estab-
20 lished in such subpart.”.

21 (c) PREFERENCES REGARDING PARTICIPANTS.—Sec-
22 tion 846(e) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.
23 297n(e)) is amended in the matter preceding paragraph
24 (1) by striking “subsection (a)” and inserting “subsection
25 (a) or (d)”.

1 (d) DEFINITIONS.—Section 846 of the Public Health
2 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 297n) is amended in subsection
3 (h) (as redesignated by subsection (b)(2) of this section)
4 by amending the subsection to read as follows:

5 “(h) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

6 “(1) The term ‘ambulatory surgical center’ has
7 the meaning applicable to such term under title
8 XVIII of the Social Security Act.

9 “(2) The term ‘community health center’ has
10 the meaning applicable to such term under section
11 330.

12 “(3) The term ‘home health agency’ has the
13 meaning given such term in section 1861(o) of the
14 Social Security Act.

15 “(4) The term ‘hospice program’ has the mean-
16 ing given such term in section 1861(dd)(2) of the
17 Social Security Act.

18 “(5) The term ‘migrant health center’ has the
19 meaning applicable to such term under section 330.

20 “(6) The term ‘rural health clinic’ has the
21 meaning given such term in section 1861(aa)(2) of
22 the Social Security Act.

23 “(7) The term ‘rural hospital’ means a hospital
24 located in a rural area, as defined in section
25 1886(d)(2)(D) of the Social Security Act.

1 “(8) The term ‘skilled nursing facility’ has the
2 meaning given such term in section 1819(a) of the
3 Social Security Act.”.

4 (e) FUNDING.—Section 846 of the Public Health
5 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 297n) is amended in subsection
6 (i) (as redesignated by subsection (b)(2) of this section)
7 by amending the subsection to read as follows:

8 “(i) FUNDING.—

9 “(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
10 For the purpose of payments under agreements en-
11 tered into under subsection (a) or (d), there are au-
12 thorized to be appropriated such sums as may be
13 necessary for each of the fiscal years 2002 through
14 2007.

15 “(2) ALLOCATIONS.—Of the amounts appro-
16 priated under paragraph (1), the Secretary may as
17 determined appropriate by the Secretary allocate
18 amounts between the program under subsection (a)
19 and the program under subsection (d).”.

20 **SEC. 4. STUDIES BY GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE.**

21 (a) HIRING DIFFERENCES AMONG CERTAIN PRIVATE
22 ENTITIES.—The Comptroller General of the United States
23 shall conduct a study to determine differences in the hir-
24 ing of nurses by nonprofit private entities as compared
25 to the hiring of nurses by private entities that are not non-

1 profit. In carrying out the study, the Comptroller General
2 shall determine the effect of the inclusion of private enti-
3 ties that are not nonprofit in the program under section
4 846 of the Public Health Service Act. Not later than two
5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
6 Comptroller General shall submit to the Congress a report
7 describing the findings of the study.

8 (b) NURSE FACULTY.—

9 (1) DETERMINATION REGARDING SHORTAGE OF
10 FACULTY.—The Comptroller General of the United
11 States shall conduct a study to determine whether
12 and to what extent there is a shortage of faculty for
13 schools of nursing. Not later than June 30, 2002,
14 the Comptroller General shall submit to the Con-
15 gress a report describing the findings of the study.

16 (2) RECOMMENDATIONS.—If the Comptroller
17 General determines pursuant to paragraph (1) that
18 there is or will be a shortage of faculty for schools
19 of nursing, the Comptroller General shall, not later
20 than September 30, 2002, submit to the Congress a
21 report providing the recommendations of the Com-
22 ptroller General for developing scholarship programs,
23 loan repayment programs, private-public partner-
24 ships, or other programs through the Department of
25 Health and Human Services to provide for an in-

- 1 crease in the number of such faculty, including rec-
- 2 ommendations on appropriate incentives for nurses
- 3 to become such faculty.

Passed the House of Representatives December 20,
2001.

Attest:

Clerk.

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